

SHELBY COUNTY OFFICE OF PREPAREDNESS eNEWSLETTER



Prevent



Protect



Respond



Recover

GIS Technology Aids Disaster Response

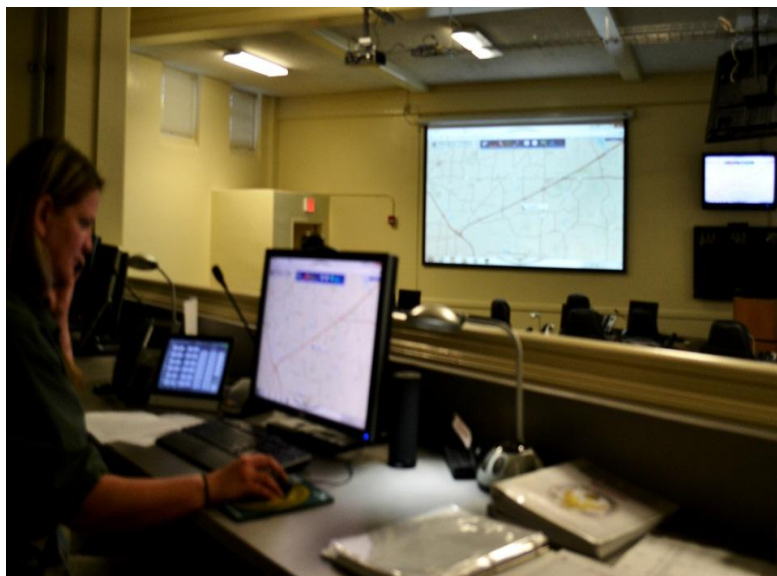


Photo Caption: Kimberlyn Bouler, Office of Preparedness Senior Planning Officer, demonstrates the GIS mapping system in the Emergency Operations Center. In a matter of seconds she locates all of the area hospitals within the six counties surrounding Shelby County

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness, under the direction of Bob Nations, Jr., has integrated geographic information systems or GIS technology into their Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

When a disaster strikes, Director Nations and his staff can quickly "map" the crisis on a computer screen either from the EOC or in remote settings. GIS software has the ability to create a 3-point or "triangle" area of interest, called a polygon, on the map. The user overlays critical infrastructure information such as the location of hospitals, fire and police stations, gas and power lines, and where needed resources are housed. GIS can also overlay weather radar to aid first responders in the decisions regarding the safest evacuation routes or where citizens could best shelter-in-place. GIS can create prediction models - to map possible disaster outcomes as well. For instance, in 2011, during the Shelby County historic "Flood of the Century," GIS was used to create flood maps predicting what areas of the county could flood next so the public could be warned in due time. A group of emergency professionals, that include professors from the University of Memphis, are part of the GIS Team. They are responsible for updating the county's resources and also train other first responders throughout the six county homeland security region on the use of GIS technology. The GIS mapping system is also used as a means to collect data for documentation following the operational period of the disaster.

Area Forecast Tool



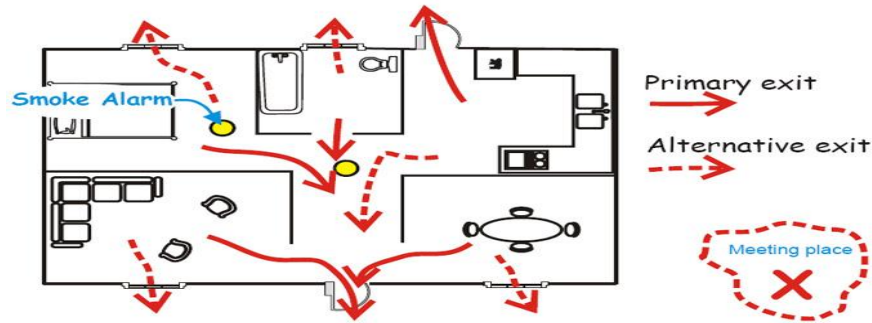
The National Weather Service is offering an exciting new tool for weather-conscious citizens. The “Area Forecast Tool” allows you to obtain the forecast for a specific area on the map. You decide where three markers are placed to create a polygon. Then click on “Get Area Forecast.” In seconds you will see the “current forecast,” the “radar and satellite images,” and the “detailed seven day forecast” for the area you selected. You can recalculate the forecast as many times as needed by dragging the markers to three new locations. Just “clear the map” and start again.

8th Anniversary Hurricane Katrina



The most costly, destructive Atlantic tropical cyclone in United States history, Hurricane Katrina, made landfall eight years ago. This category 3 hurricane caused the levee system south of New Orleans to catastrophically fail, killing 1833 citizens. 80% of New Orleans and neighboring parishes were flooded due to the storm surge. Thousands were evacuated inland, and countless homes and businesses were destroyed by the historical flooding and winds. The states most affected were Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida, Alabama and Texas. The storm costs over \$105 billion in damages. The rebuilding efforts on the Gulf Coast continue eight years after the storm hit. Hurricane Katrina made landfall August 29, 2005.

What is Your Escape Plan?



When disaster strikes, it is vital for you and your family to be able to escape quickly and for emergency rescuers to be able to get to you quickly. Make sure you have two ways in and out of each room.

Do your windows open easily? Are there security bars on windows? If so, consider replacing them with bars that open with a key lock from the inside. Make sure all doors are functional and able to be opened in case of emergency. If keys are needed to open deadbolt locks, make sure the keys are easy to obtain. Practice safely escaping your home or workplace as if we had experienced a power outage. Know where your cell phone, charger, wallet and shoes are at all times. Keep them in the same place every day so you can find them in a hurry. Create a special “meeting place” outside the home where everyone will gather. Practice your plan!

July 18, 2013 - Severe Thunderstorm



Photo Caption: July 18, 2013, flash flooding trapped motorists at Coleman Road and Austin Peay

July 18, 2013 brought a round of severe weather to Shelby County with a “special weather statement” by the National Weather Service predicting a line of strong thunderstorms, heavy rains, and cloud-to-ground lightning. Strong winds of at least 60 miles per hour downed trees and power lines as 3 inches of rainfall pounded the streets that were already soaked, until flash flooding occurred in many parts of the county. Low-lying intersections disappeared under the water trapping motorists and stalling cars. Over 1,000 Memphis Light, Gas and Water customers were without power for a period of time. Remember, when faced with standing water, never try to drive through it, instead, **“turn around, don’t drown!”**

Mid South Weather Camp



Photo Caption: Left, the Shelby County Office of Preparedness handed out coloring books, preparedness brochures, hazard maps, Citizen Corps pencils, and metal whistles to the children. Left to right: Reserve Ned Savage, Officer Eugene Jones, Channel 13's Joey Sulipeck, Chief Meteorologist, and Officer Shannon Towery. Right: Children were guest meteorologist in front of the green screen.

Hundreds of excited children and their parents attended WHBQ Fox 13's annual Mid South Weather Camp at AgriCenter International on Saturday, August 3, 2013. The children were invited to learn about inclement weather – how it is predicted, how the meteorologist report it, and how to stay safe when it occurs. They were invited to create their own tornado in a glass bottle, launch a balloon outside, and try their hand at flying a styrofoam plane over an indoor runway. Several agencies were on hand to meet the children, give hands-on safety demonstrations, and hand out water bottles, metal whistles, cookies, gift bags, wooden airplanes, cloud charts, and brochures. Agencies attending included Fox 13, AgriCenter International, the Shelby County Office of Preparedness, Firehouse Subs, the National Weather Service in Memphis, the Shelby County Health Department, Bridges, the Shelby County Medical Reserve Corps, Federal Express, and Storm Water Matters.



Photo Caption: Left, Eugene Jones, Preparedness Officer, demonstrates how to safely turn off residential water for Jessica and Victoria Davis. Right: Danielle Pointer and Raygan Davis pick up preparedness coloring books and HELP/ OK signs.

Effective Forecast Language



Here in Shelby County, Tennessee, we are in “Tornado Alley Two.” We are accustomed to hearing our meteorologists issue tornado warnings several times per year. This indicates that a tornado has been spotted by a SKYWARN volunteer or has been seen on radar. However, because the public has heard this type of warning frequently, its effectiveness has lessened over time and citizens do not necessarily seek shelter.

To get the attention of citizens and promote public safety, the National Weather Service is developing “Impact Based Warnings” when strong storms pose an immediate threat to a large population.

For instance, as violent tornadoes were about to hit Moore, Oklahoma in May of this year, the forecast was changed from a tornado warning to a Tornado Emergency! A tornado can now be described by three warning options:

- **Tornado Warning.** A tornado has been spotted on radar or by SKYWARN volunteers.
- **Tornado Warning with the description of expected damage and urging the public to seek shelter immediately.**
- **Tornado Emergency.** A violent tornado likely to produce devastating damage. The warning may include: “The public should seek shelter immediately.” A damage threat tag of “catastrophic” may be embedded in the warning.

The National Weather Service will continue to incorporate new and more effective warning language into their forecasts in the future.

“Hurricane Elvis” 10 Year Anniversary



In the early morning hours of July 22, 2003, ten years ago, Shelby County citizens awoke to howling winds and torrential rains called a “derecho (de ray cho).” Later nick-named "Hurricane Elvis," this sudden blast of destructive straight-line winds blew through Shelby County damaging over 300,000 homes and initially leaving 750,000 households in the dark. Because there was no wind rotation, the outdoor warning sirens were not activated and most citizens were still asleep when it occurred.

According to the National Weather Service, the top wind speed was 102 miles per hour in downtown Memphis. Hundreds of mature trees were pulled up by their roots and over 1,000 utility poles snapped in half. At least 800 transformers blew as a result of the high winds. 75% of the traffic signals malfunctioned – turning most intersections into a 4-way stop. Memphis International Airport’s Northwest Airlines hub was forced to close.

Hurricane Elvis cost: One direct fatality, 6 indirect fatalities. Citizens were without power for up to 16 days, and over \$500 million in damages.

The Emergency Operations Center was activated to coordinate the efforts of all agencies to assess the damage and clean up the debris. Shelby County was declared a federal disaster area.

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness, under the direction of Bob Nations, Jr., reminds citizens that disasters, such as “Hurricane Elvis,” can happen any time with little warning. Be ready!

- Have a NOAA All-Hazards Weather radio with the S.A.M.E. feature, tone alert, and battery back-up.
- Create a disaster kit for home, work and auto, with enough supplies to sustain you, your family, and pets for up to 7 days.
- Make sure you have a “safe place” to go to at home and at work. It should be on the lowest floor, center of the building, away from windows and doors.
- Practice your plans with your family and co-workers. Be prepared to shelter-in-place or evacuate at a moment’s notice.

We may not be able to prevent or predict some disasters, but we can plan to survive them.

Preparedness Outreach



Photo Caption: Minister Patricia Maxwell, 7th from left, standing, created a “Seminar for Life” for citizens.

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness attended the annual community event, “Seminar for Life,” on Saturday, July 13, 2013, hosted by Minister Patricia Maxwell at 905 Shelby Drive. 30 citizens gathered to listen to a series of guest speakers informing them of many of the helpful services provided by various agencies throughout the county.

Shelby County Citizen Corps



Photo Caption: Some members of the Shelby County Citizen Corps Council during their quarterly meeting.

The Shelby County Citizen Corps Council gathered on Thursday, July 25, 2013, at the Shelby County Office of Preparedness for their quarterly meeting. Those attending included Terry Donald, Shelby County Office of Preparedness; Kimberlyn Boulter, Office of Preparedness Planning Officer / Citizen Corps Chairperson; Jennifer Russell, Shelby County Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator; Shelby Slater, University of Memphis Emergency Preparedness Coordinator; Claude Talford, City of Lakeland Director of Emergency Management; and Hall Perry, from CERT Plus.

University Of Memphis Preparedness Update:

According to Shelby Slater, the University of Memphis Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, the U of M Office of Crisis Management has moved to the Park Avenue Campus at Park and Getwell.

The office has a dedicated Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and houses new technology including a weather monitoring system, amateur “ham” radio, and utilizes incident management software (CommandPro).

Slater said, “This transition will significantly improve campus preparedness, response and recovery capabilities while supporting a safe environment for the campus community. This expanded office space will also allow for more Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes and expand the program to the surrounding community.”

Shelby County Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer Opportunities:



Per Jennifer Russell, RN, MSN, Shelby County Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator, volunteers are needed for emergency response drills on:

- **Sunday, August 11, 2013**, at Wolfchase Galleria Mall
- **Sunday, September 22, 2013** at Oak Court Mall.

These drills will include multiple agencies such as emergency medical services, law enforcement, hospitals, and many others to better prepare our community for disasters. Volunteers will “role play” as disaster victims, patients, or evacuees. For more information or to register for these drills, please visit: www.shelbycountyttn.gov/mrc .

Additionally, on **Monday, September 9, 2013**, there will be an airline crash drill at the Memphis International Airport. To register, please contact Lori at lorim@mscaa.com or call 901.922.8754.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training:



Photo Caption: Jo Griffith, left, Office of Preparedness Reserve, with her grandson, Chandler Brown, right, during fire suppression CERT training at the Shelby County Complex on July 27, 2013

Bartlett CERT: 5868 Stage Road, Bartlett Station Municipal Center, Community Room A, Bartlett, TN 38135, Email Laura Jenkins at: ljenkins@cityofbartlett.org for class dates.

CERTPlus: Citizens For CERT. New CERT program incorporated in Tennessee offering CERT training by all-volunteer, certified instructors. Call Lee Race at 901.692.3889.

Collierville CERT: 1251 Peterson Lake, Collierville, TN, Friday, 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Email Scott Sumner at: ssumner@ci.collierville.tn.us or call 901.457.2400.

Germantown CERT: Fire Station #4, 3031 Forrest Hill Irene, Germantown, TN, Friday at 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., next 2 Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., September 28, 29, October 5. Email Sherry Rhea at: srhea@germantown-tn.gov.

Shelby County Office of Preparedness CERT: 1075 Mullins Station Road, Memphis, TN 38134, Two consecutive Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Aug 10 and 17, Sep 7 and 14, Oct 5 and 12, Nov 2 and 9. Pre-registration is required. Email Eugene Jones at: Eugene.jones@shelbycountyttn.gov.

CERT for Single Moms: “A Single Plan: Emergency Preparedness for Single Moms,” September 21 and 28, 2013, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., 1075 Mullins Station Road, Memphis, TN 38134. Register by calling 901.213.6861. Class size is limited to 30 students.

Individuals with Access and Functional Needs



In times of disaster, there will be groups of citizens who will require assistance in order to survive and thrive after the crisis has passed. “Special needs” citizens are now referred to as “individuals with access and functional needs.” They include those with medical problems, the hearing and vision impaired, those with physical challenges relying on wheelchairs, walkers or canes, those without transportation, single parents, the indigent, the homeless, those mentally and emotionally challenged, those addicted to drugs or alcohol, those with language barriers, and those who live isolated.

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness urges everyone to “be a buddy” to individuals with access and functional needs. Consider assisting them in getting prepared now and helping them during the disaster.

Follow these suggestions:

1. **Remind them of the hazards** that will likely occur here such as earthquake, flooding, power outages, terrorism, hazardous materials accidents, major fires, and weather-related events.
2. **Help them create a special disaster kit** to address their needs to include: food, water, clothing, first-aid, ABC fire extinguisher, flashlight and batteries, metal whistle, medications, hearing-aid and battery, walker / cane / crutches, dentures, eye glasses / contacts, medical monitors, sanitary needs, oxygen, dialysis supplies, medical alert systems, feeding devices, and special electrical equipment.
3. **Make a plan:** write down a specific plan for how they will evacuate or shelter-in-place corresponding to each hazard and threat. Are there barriers to their safety they can overcome before the disaster?
 - **Create a personal special needs assessment:** list their abilities, what can they do and what do they need help with? Include a description of their medical conditions, medications, and treatments. Include the names and phone numbers of doctors and frequented medical facilities.
 - **Register** your buddy with your nearest fire station.
 - **Create a list of the special equipment** they use and where to obtain back up equipment.
 - Make arrangements for **transportation. Are wheelchair ramps needed? Special vans?**
 - **Service animals:** create a disaster kit for them as well.
4. **Stay Informed:** NOAA All-hazard weather radios can be adapted with strobe lights, pillow shakers, and signaling devices to alert those who are vision or hearing impaired. Call 911 to register with a relay service and find out about TTY or TTD communications for the deaf if needed.
5. **Be a Buddy:** Share door keys or codes with your buddy so you can assist them during the disaster. Create an “emergency support group” before the disaster to include their family, friends, neighbors, medical professionals, and clergy to ensure their safety.

Shelby Cares Recruiting Reserve Volunteers



Hurricane season is here!

Shelby Cares, the county's faith-based sheltering initiative, is preparing to welcome hurricane evacuees from the Gulf Coast until the storm has passed and it is safe to go back home. Led by the Shelby County Office of Preparedness, under the direction of Bob Nations, Jr., Shelby Cares is now recruiting reserve volunteers who are interested in serving in these shelters. Reserves will be trained to assist the staff in operations and maintaining the day-to-day business of housing, feeding, and caring for those in need. Shelby Cares reserves must be at least 18 years of age, a citizen of Shelby County, and have reliable transportation. Once trained, Shelby Cares reserves will be expected to volunteer a minimum of 4 hours per shift when called in to a shelter.

Those who are interested, please email Terry Donald at terry.donald@shelbycountyttn.gov. An application will be sent to you electronically. Or for more information, please call Terry Donald at 901.222.6717.

Preparedness Training Opportunities:

Medical Preparedness and Response to Bombing Incidents (TEEX): August 13 & 14, 2013, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Desoto County EOC, 830 Old Highway 51 North, Nesbit, MS. Contact: Captain Lee A. Calvi or call 662.469.8016 for more information.

Emergency Operations Center Course (TEMA): September 17, 2013, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Shelby County EOC, 1075 Mullins Station Road, Room C-113. Free. No prerequisites. Visit www.staysafeshelby.us to print off registration form. Fax form to: 901.222.6714.

Hazmat Awareness Course (TEMA): October 16, 2013, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Shelby County EOC, 1075 Mullins Station Road, Room C-113. Free. No prerequisites. Visit www.staysafeshelby.us to print off registration form. Fax form to: 901.222.6714.

Dealing with the Media: A Short Course for Rural First Responders

December 3, 2013, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Desoto County EOC, 830 Old Highway 51 North, Nesbit, MS
Contact: Captain Lee A. Calvi or call 662.469.8016 for more information.

Shelby County Office of Preparedness Resources:

Shelby County Office of Preparedness: 901.515.2525, www.staysafeshelby.us

Shelby County Citizen Corp: citizencorps@shelbycountyttn.gov

Shelby County, TN: www.shelbycountyttn.gov

Shelby County Medical Reserve Corps: www.shelbycountymrc.org

Ready Shelby: www.readyshelby.us

Shelby Cares Faith-Based Sheltering: 901.515.2525 or email Terry.Donald@shelbycountyttn.gov

Shelby County Office of Preparedness Storm Shelter Registry: email Kimberlyn.Bouler@shelbycountyttn.gov

ALERT FM: www.alertfm.com

AccuWeather: www.accuweather.com

American Heart Association : www.heart.org

American Radio Relay League: www.arrl.org

Center for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov

Center for Earthquake Research and Information: CERI www.ceri.memphis.edu

Citizen Corps: www.citizencorps.org

Department of Homeland Security: www.dhs.gov

Disability Preparedness: www.disability.gov/emergency-preparedness

Disaster Recovery Centers: text DRC plus zip code to 43362

Do1thing: www.do1thing.com

Drop Box: www.dropbox.com

EMERGENCY: call 911

Non-Emergency: requires assistance but is not life-threatening, please call:

Bartlett Police.....901-385-5555

Memphis Police.....901-545-2677

Collierville Police.....901-853-3207

Millington Police.....901-872-3333

Germantown Police.....901-754-7222

Shelby County Fire.....901-379-7070

Memphis Fire.....901-458-8281

Shelby County Sheriff.....901-379-7625

Emergency 2.0: www.emergency202wiki.org

Federal Drug Administration: www.fda.gov

Federal Emergency Management Administration: www.fema.gov, 1.800.621.3362

FEMA Text messages: text PREPARE 43362 (4FEMA)

Google Maps: www.googlemaps.com

Humane Society of Memphis and Shelby County: www.memphishumane.org

International Association of Emergency Planners: www.iaem.com

Lightning Safety: www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov

LINC 211: Memphis Public Library Community Resource Database: call 2-1-1 or 901.415.2790 or 855.345.4211 or TTY (for hearing impaired 901.415.2701

MapQuest: www.mapquest.com

Memphis Light, Gas and Water: www.mlgw.com, 901.544.6549, Outages: 901.544.6500

National Flood Insurance Program: www.floodsmart.gov

National Fire Protection Association: www.NFPA.org

National Hurricane Center: www.nhc.noaa.gov

National Safety Council: www.nsc.org

National Weather Service: www.weather.gov

National Weather Service in Memphis: www.srh.noaa.gov/meg
901.544.0399

Next of Kin Registry: www.nokr.org

Occupational Safety and Hazards Administration: www.osha.gov

Ready America: www.ready.gov

Ready Business: www.ready.gov/business

Ready Kids: www.ready.gov/kids

Ready Tennessee: www.tnema.org/readyttn

Road Conditions: Tennessee: 1.877.244.0065
Mississippi: 1.888.728.4218
Arkansas: 1.800.245.1672

Salvation Army: www.salvationarmyusa.org

Severe Weather: www.ready.gov/severe-weather

Shelters, text SHELTER and your zip code to 43362

Storm Ready Program: www.stormready.noaa.gov

Tennessee: www.tennessee.gov

Tennessee Department of Transportation: www.tdot.state.tn.us

Tennessee Emergency Management Agency: www.tema.gov

United States Fire Administration: www.usfa.fema.gov

United States Geological Society: www.usgs.gov

Weather Bug: www.weatherbug.com

Weather Channel: www.weather.com

Wunderground: www.wunderground.com

Shelby County Office of Preparedness HLS / EMA

Bob Nations, Jr., Director

1075 Mullins Station Rd

Memphis TN 38134

901.515.2525

www.staysafeshelby.us

- Know Your Risks
- Get a Kit
- Make a Plan
- Stay Informed
- Be a Buddy

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness' mission is to provide administrative assistance to address the unique planning, equipment, training, and exercise needs of Shelby County and the UASI region. The Office of Preparedness assists the partnering jurisdictions in building an enhanced and sustainable capacity to prevent, protect, respond to and recover from all-hazards and threats. These threats and eventualities can be natural or man-made. The Office of Preparedness has a two-fold mission: grants and program administration. Within the scope of these missions, the Office of Preparedness integrates into the comprehensive public safety environment within Shelby County and the UASI Region. The TN Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) includes: in Tennessee, Shelby County, City of Memphis, City of Bartlett, City of Millington, City of Germantown, Town of Arlington, City of Lakeland, Town of Collierville, Tipton County, Fayette County, Lauderdale County; in Arkansas, Crittenden County and in Mississippi, Desoto County.